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KINGTON URBAN DISTRICT
Herefordshire

Joint
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and of the
Sanitary Inspector
for the year 1955

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(As at 31st December, 1955)

C.B. Llewellyn	Chairman of the Council and Chairman of the General Purposes Committee.
F.S. Bromley	Chairman of the Water Supplies Committee.
E.F. Davies	Chairman of the Finance Committee.
M. Dowling	Vice-Chairman of the Council and Chairman of the Housing Sites Committee.
W.L. Fowler	
A. James	
W.J. Lloyd	
W. Morgan	
F. Seymour	
G.A.R. Smith	
E.R. Smith	
E.C. Thomas	
Mrs. D.M. Ward	Chairman of the Housing Committee.
E.B. Watkins	Chairman of the Recreation Ground Committee.
E.T. Watkins	

Clerk to the Council .. S.D. Crowle.

Medical Officer of Health	I.F. MACKENZIE, M.D.(Edin) D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.
Sanitary Inspector	S.D. CROWLE, M.S.I.A., (Resigned September 26th)
	E.P.G. BENNETT, M.S.I.A., (Appointed October 20th)

To the Chairman and Members of the Kington Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Ward, Gentlemen,

Your Sanitary Inspector and I have pleasure in presenting our joint report for the year 1955.

No outbreaks of infectious disease of a major character occurred during the twelve months. The six cases of Scarlet Fever arose sporadically in the early part of the year; and the few instances of Measles that were notified, represent the usual odd cases that appear in between epidemic outbreaks.

It is interesting to observe that there were no fresh cases of Tuberculosis during 1955. As four names were removed from the Register, the total for the district is now eighteen. This is the lowest for the past ten years; the highest during that period was twenty-three in 1953.

It would appear that this disease is being brought under control in our area. Only two cases were notified in 1953, one in 1954 and, as has been mentioned, none in the year under review. As poor housing conditions are an important factor in the spread of Tuberculosis in a family, we cannot but expect that more new cases will be diagnosed from time to time, but the effects of better housing, of B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis, and of visits by the Hospital Board's Miniature Radiography Unit will, in the course of the years, practically eliminate Pulmonary Tuberculosis from Kington Urban District.

The birth rate for the year was most satisfactory, there having been more than twice as many births as in 1954. As the infant mortality rate at 60 per 1,000 live births is substantially above that for England and Wales, I must make clear that this represents only three infant deaths. These deaths were caused by congenital defects and by premature birth and must therefore be regarded as having no connection with the general level of health in the community. Of the forty deaths at all ages registered during 1955, almost half resulted from diseases of the heart or blood circulation.

Under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, the Council were required to prepare, by August 30th, 1955, a programme for the replacement of property in the district that is unfit for human habitation. A preliminary survey carried out by your former Sanitary Inspector and myself resulted in the Ministry being informed that there are 134 houses that appeared to be suitable for inclusion in that category. A detailed inspection of these, and other houses, will need to be undertaken so that accurate data may be available to enable appropriate action to be taken under the Housing Acts. The need

for new houses is fully appreciated by the Council; and it is much to be regretted that difficulties and unexpected delays hinder our every effort to secure sites. A substantial programme of council house construction is long over-due, not only to provide for persons on our waiting list (which numbers 76 at the present time) but also for the replacement of unfit houses under the 1954 Housing Act. In addition, we must, at the earliest possible moment, in view of the desire of the Ministry to derequisition land at Hergest, provide accommodation for those urban people now resident at the Camp, whom we have undertaken to re-house. The housing problem in the Urban District is so urgent and affects so many unfortunate people that, once the Council is satisfied that a site is suitable from the point of view of engineering and county planning, compulsory purchase should be resorted to without undue delay if the owners reveal that they are unwilling to negotiate. In this connection the report of the Kington Working Party on Town and Country Planning is awaited with interest.

In view of the comment in the body of this report that an additional source of water will become necessary should further council house building be embarked upon, it would be but wise for us to consult with the Rural District Council now on the provision of this extra supply of water from the Hergest Water Treatment Works. Were a supplementary scheme to be prepared by the Rural District's Consulting Water Engineers to cover our needs, and were it to be considered by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government when the public inquiry into the Rural District's own Comprehensive Scheme is held, considerable time might be saved. I am assuming that it is practicable, on both engineering and financial grounds, for us to obtain chlorinated water from Hergest; otherwise an alternative source (which may be the Back Brook and therefore requiring careful filtration and chlorination) will need to be incorporated in our own public water supply.

It is unfortunate that the Council are faced with a housing problem of substantial size at a time when it has become apparent that our water supplies must be augmented and when the Wye River Board have decided to insist on the provision of an up-to-date Sewage Treatment Works. As new council houses in material numbers may not be permitted by the Wye River Board to be occupied after erection without a new sewage treatment works, and as an augmented water supply will in any case be necessary, our three projects, for water, sewage treatment and houses should be proceeded with simultaneously, and especially as we know from experience how long it takes to acquire even a housing site.

Your Sanitary Inspector and I would like to acknowledge our appreciation of the keen interest taken by the Chairman and members in our day to day activities. We find this to be not only an encouragement to us, but an incentive as well.

I.F. MACKENZIE

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Office: 4, Church Street, Leominster.
Telephone No: Leominster 2595

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	857
Population	1,850
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1955) according to the Rate Books ..	638
Rateable Value	£10,488.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£40.11. 9d.

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Total	Male	Female
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate)	49	31	18
(Illegitimate)	1		1
Total	50	31	19
STILL BIRTHS	Nil		
DEATHS	40	23	17
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES ..	Nil		
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE (Legitimate)	2	1	1
(Illegitimate)	1		1
Total	3	1	2

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1955.

Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population) ..	27.0
Birth Rate for England and Wales	15.0
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total live and still births) ..	Nil
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales	23.1
Death Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population) ..	21.6
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.7
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 related live births) ..	60.0
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	24.9

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTIONS

WATER SUPPLY

The supply from the Crooked Well spring was only just sufficient for the needs of the town during the year. Should any further houses be erected, an alternative additional source will have to be considered.

Samples were taken throughout the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. All were found to be satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The effluent from the Sewage Works which, it is known, is below the requisite standard, was kept under observation throughout the year. The Council are negotiating with Consulting Engineers for the preparation of plans for a new treatment works. Application will be made to the appropriate Ministry in due course for grant aid towards its construction.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The same system of collecting and disposing of refuse was continued throughout the year, and all refuse was burnt in the incinerator before tipping.

RODENT CONTROL

The Rodent Operator serves this Council and the New Radnor Rural District Council on a half time basis.

The annual test baiting of sewers was carried out and was followed up by two maintenance treatments.

Domestic premises and business premises were surveyed and all infestations were treated.

FACTORIES and WORKSHOPS

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	6	15	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	27	31	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	33	46	-	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Found	Remedied
Inadequate ventilation ..	1	1
Want of cleanliness ..	2	2
Sanitary Conveniences - Unsuitable or defective ..	1	1
TOTAL	4	4

HOUSING

No council houses or bungalows were built during the year.

New sites for council houses are being sought, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain suitable land upon which to build owing to the compact and relatively limited area of the Urban District.

Better housing conditions for some people could be obtained by reconditioning and improvement of structurally sound but sub-standard houses.

Improvement Grants

One improvement grant was approved for the conversion of two small cottages into one good dwelling.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk

Milk supplied to all the County schools in the district was sampled and was found to conform to the standard for pasteurised milk.

Four other samples of milk were taken for routine checking and were found to be satisfactory.

There are now two retail purveyors in the district, but neither of them has dairy premises within this area.

Food Inspection

Condemnation Certificates were issued in respect of the following amounts of food voluntarily surrendered.

11	tins of meat and meat products.
35	tins of vegetables and vegetable products.
111	tins of fruit.
8	tins of fish and fish products.
17	tins of milk.
40	lbs. of dried fruit salad.
8	lbs. of cheese.
5	lbs. of beef sausage.

Condemned foodstuffs are taken to the incinerator and burnt or rendered useless.

Food Premises

Total number of Food Premises in the district (including Public Houses etc)	47
Total number of inspections	56

One other shop was registered for the sale or storage of ice cream, bringing the total of ice cream premises to seven.

The number of premises registered under Section 14 for the preparation, sale etc. of potted, pickled or preserved meat and sausages remained at four.

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection

The two licenced slaughterhouses continued to operate during the year.

All carcasses were inspected before being removed from the slaughterhouse and prepared for sale.

Carcasses Inspected and Condemned

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number Inspected:	24	2	101	35

All diseases except Tuberculosis

Whole carcasses condemned:	Nil	Nil	1 (casualty)	Nil
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Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned:	3	Nil	12	Nil
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Tuberculosis Only

Whole carcasses condemned:	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
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Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned:	Nil	Nil	Nil	4
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Congenital Tuberculosis:	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
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Liver fluke (distomatosis) was the principal cause of condemnation, whilst evidence of tuberculosis was found in the four pigs' heads.

Bakchouses

There are six bakchouses in the district and ten inspections were made. Conditions were satisfactory.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

ANALYSES OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES ACCORDING TO AGE

Disease	Age of Patient				
	1-2	3-4	5-9	25 & Over	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	1	-	4	1	6
Measles	2	2	1	-	5

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1955 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of eight males and ten females who normally reside within the district.

No new cases were notified during the year; three cases recovered and one died from other causes.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946, Section 26
Vaccination and Immunisation

Numbers of children in the district who were treated during the year:-

Purpose of Injection.	Age at date of immunisation or vaccination.						Reinforcing Injections.
	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	15 & Over	Total	
Immunisation against Diphtheria	11	8	1	6	-	26	10
Immunisation against Whooping Cough	19	5	-	-	-	24	-
Vaccination against Smallpox	23	-	-	-	1	24	5

Vaccination and Immunisation are a County Council responsibility and the figures given above have been kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health.

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

Disease	Males	Females	Total
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	-	1	1
Leukaemia, aloukaemia	1	-	1
Diabetes	-	2	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	-	4	4
Coronary disease, angina	1	1	2
Other heart disease	7	2	9
Other circulatory disease	2	2	4
Pneumonia	3	-	3
Bronchitis	2	1	3
Other disease of respiratory system .	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	1	-	1
Congenital malformations	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	3	4
All causes	23	17	40

